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Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

Letter dated 31 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of the Declaration of the Consultative and Political Coordination Forum of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), Bolivia and Chile, which was adopted in Buenos Aires on 27 March 2000 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Governments of the member countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Governments of Bolivia and Chile should be grateful if you would have this Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 67.

(*Signed*) Arnoldo **Listre**
Permanent Representative
President *pro tempore* of MERCOSUR

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Annex

Declaration of the Consultative and Political Coordination Forum of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile, adopted in Buenos Aires on 27 March 2000 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The date of 5 March last marked the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Governments of the member countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Governments of Bolivia and Chile wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, an instrument that is the cornerstone of the international system of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile therefore attach particular importance to the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will be convened in New York on 24 April 2000 as a forum to review the implementation of the Treaty, in the light of the decisions adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

In the light of recent events that threaten the objectives of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, the Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile attach the greatest importance to universal accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to progress towards the fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Treaty aimed at achieving the goal of a world that is completely free of nuclear weapons. We therefore appeal to those countries that have not yet acceded to the Treaty to do so without conditions and to subscribe to the other instruments of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime so as to fully comply with the obligations that arise thereunder.

Foremost among these obligations is the commitment which the Treaty establishes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile therefore urge nuclear-weapon States to unequivocally commit themselves to the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals at an early date, thereby fully discharging their obligations under article VI of the Treaty.

Article IV of the Treaty also recognizes the inalienable right of all peoples to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In recognition of this right, our Governments shall work to ensure that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference and other pertinent forums adopt decisions to promote international cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Latin America is a pioneering region that has long been committed to the cause of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Our countries are part of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) in one the most densely populated regions of the globe.

The situation in our subregion has been further strengthened by the Political Declaration signed by the Presidents of the member countries of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile in Ushuaia in July 1998, which declared our countries to be a zone of peace free of weapons of mass destruction.

It is against this background that the Governments of the member countries of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and their determination to make every effort necessary to achieve its full implementation and its universality, as a step towards the ultimate objective of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Buenos Aires, 27 March 2000